

EUROPARC Federation

**Memorandum of Understanding
with the United States National Parks Service North East Region**

EUROPARC Members' Questionnaire

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☒ Yes, we are interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

☐ No, we are not interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

Please state reason:

1. If yes, on which topics would you be interested in pursuing cooperation?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> organisational development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ecotourism |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sustainability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marketing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transboundary management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financing | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please state) _____ |

2. If yes, what type of exchange would you be interested in ?

- ☒ at staff level (professional development)
- ☒ at political level (Presidents, Board Members)
- ☒ other stakeholders (e.g. farmers, tourism businesses)

continued

3. If yes, please give a short description of the features of your park and main areas of current work:

The National Marine Park of Zakynthos (N.M.P.Z.) is the recently established marine park situated at the southern most part of the island of Zakynthos, Greece. The Presidential Decree for the establishment of the N.M.P.Z. was signed on the 1st of December 1999 by the President of the Greek Republic (Gov. Gazzette 906/D 22 December 1999).

The Marine Park's objectives are to preserve the natural environment and conserve the ecological balance of the marine and coastal area of Laganas Bay and the Strophadia Islands, at Zakynthos island.

Within the Marine Park is the most important loggerhead sea turtle *Caretta caretta* nesting rookery in the Mediterranean, a habitat essential for protection.

The National Marine Park of Zakynthos is the first of its kind in Greece comprising of a Management Body and constitutes an example for other areas in Greece requiring integrated management.

The Management Agency of the Marine Park was formed as a result of a National Government Ministerial Decision on 20th July 2000.

The Management Board of the Management Agency has ten members who are representatives of Zakynthian Society, the Regional Authority of Ionian Islands, Environmental Organisations and the Greek Ministry of Environment.

The Management Agency of the Marine Park is non-profit and is supervised by the Greek Ministry of Environment.

During the 2002 period, the Management Agency of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos (N.M.P.Z.), implemented a range of protection activities. The objective of which was to ensure the protection of the habitats in the Laganas region, including that of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nesting beaches.

These include:

- Building control within the Park area
- Wardening of the Nesting Beaches
- Public Awareness
- Beach Cleaning
- Environmental Education Activities
- Delineation of the Marine Area of the Park
- Collaboration with local stakeholders

Signed:

Date: 6th March 2003

Kostas Katselidis
National Marine Park of Zakynthos Co-ordinator